

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
**COUNCIL POLICY**

**CURRENT**

SUBJECT: MEDIAN OPENINGS  
POLICY NO.: 800-05  
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 27, 1974

DEFINITION:

A median is a section of roadway designated by curbing or paint designed to separate opposing lanes of traffic.

PURPOSE:

A median opening is utilized where there is a need to permit left turns and where traffic movement or safety will not be adversely affected.

POLICY:

Median openings on City streets shall be permitted in accordance with the following provisions and conditions:

GENERAL:

Median openings will normally be permitted at an intersection with dedicated City streets except where such opening will impair the movements of traffic or constitute a hazard. Mid-block median openings or other openings with turns permitted into adjacent property will not normally be permitted unless all the following conditions exist:

WARRANTS:

1. Major Streets (curbed medians)
  - a. The property to be served is a major traffic generator and has a continuing frontage of 1,200 feet or more along the major street and is situated between streets which intersect the major street from the side occupied by the property.
  - b. The median opening is not less than 600 feet from an intersection with a major or collector street.
  - c. The median opening is not less than 400 feet from an intersection with a local street.
  - d. The median opening is not less than 600 feet from any other existing or proposed mid-block median opening.
  - e. All costs, i.e., base material, surfacing, safety lighting, traffic signals, reconstruction or utility relocation, required by a mid-block opening will be borne by the requesting party.
  - f. The design of median openings shall be subject to the requirements and approval of the City Manager or his designated alternate.

**2. Divided Collector Streets and Split Level Local Streets (curbed medians)**

Median openings will normally be permitted at all intersections with dedicated City streets. Normally, the spacing between median openings should be no more than 1,200 feet. Mid-block median openings or other openings with turns into adjacent property will not normally be permitted unless the following conditions exist:

- a. The median opening is not less than 400 feet from an intersection with a major or collector street.
- b. The median opening is not less than 250 feet from any other intersecting street.
- c. The median opening is not less than 400 feet from any other existing or proposed mid-block median opening.
- d. All costs of constructing the opening shall be borne by the developer or petitioner.
- e. The design of median openings shall be subject to the requirements and approval of the City Manager or his designated alternate.

**3. Freeways and Expressways**

- a. There shall be no median openings except as designed by the responsible governmental agency.
- b. There shall be no access to any existing or proposed ramp.

**4. Major and Collector Streets (painted medians)**

Warrants for major streets with curbed median shall apply except on roadways where traffic volumes and speed are moderate. In these cases painted left turn lanes or continuous left turn lanes may be permitted subject to the approval of the City Manager or his designated alternate.

**HISTORY:**

Adopted by Resolution R-169954 03/15/1962

Amended by Resolution R-212107 11/27/1974